

Luton 7, Southampton 0

BRIAN STEIN celebrated his 28th birthday by smashing a thrilling hat-trick as Luton demolished Southampton at Kenilworth Road yesterday with a magnificent exhibition of attacking football, writes Robert Alexander. 85/86

The victory was Luton's best in the First Division since Sunderland were crushed 8-2 in 1955 and, but for some astonishing Shilton saves, would almost certainly have been enlarged to double figures.

After spectating at Wembley on Wednesday, Shilton — who had never before conceded seven goals for Southampton although, when with Leicester, Everton scored seven against him in 1968-9—was in constant action as his defence was torn apart at will by the running of Stein and Nwajiobi, the aerial dominance of Harford over Wright and the glittering skill of Hill.

Nwajiobi shot Luton ahead after five minutes, Stein hit the second after 33, with a deflection by Wright and Hill the third to complete a fluent move in the 41st minute after a 60-yard run by Thomas.

The catalogue continued after the interval with Stein rapping his second after a Foster shot was blocked in the 56th minute, Preece touching home the fifth on the hour and Daniel the sixth in the 88th, outwitting Shilton from a superb Hill pass.

With the crowd baying for more, Stein was offered the chance to complete his hat-trick when the hapless Wright brought down Harford and Stein buried the penalty with gleeful aplomb.